

Message Text

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11

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 CG-00 DODE-00

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R 210935Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3444

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, OCON, XN, US, RO

SUBJECT: ICNAF: FISHERIES -- ROMANIAN POSITION

REF: A) STATE 183185; B) BUCHAREST 3137; C) STATE 167508

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED RETEL A SITUATION WITH TUDOR MIRCEA, MFA OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH ICNAF MATTERS, ON SEPTEMBER 20. AFTER OPENING DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO CHARGE'S PREVIOUS CALL ON DEPUTY FORMIN GLIGA (REFTEL B), DURING WHICH SECRETARY ROGERS' LETTER ON ICNAF PROBLEM WAS DELIVERED, EMBOFF DREW EXTENSIVELY FROM SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL C IN STRESSING SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT ICNAF SITUATION.

2. MIRCEA EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR US INITIATIVE IN PROMOTING CONSERVATION MEASURES IN SA 5. GOR IS PREPARING TO SEND TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED DELEGATION TO

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OTTAWA MEETING, PROBABLY HEADED BY NAVROM DIRECTOR GENERAL

NICOLAE OCANOIA AND INCLUDING GOR FISHING EXPERT LIVIU POPESCU, IN HOPES OF ARRIVING AT EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. MIRCEA DECLINED COMMENT AT THIS TIME WHETHER GOR WOULD AGREE TO JANUARY 1, 1974 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR ANY ACCORDS REACHED AT OTTAWA, BUT HE DID MAKE POINT THAT GOR HAD ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO IMPLEMENT ICANF AGREEMENTS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND DID NOT WAIT FOR DEADLINES.

3. WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR US POSITION AND BASIC AGREEMENT WITH NEED FOR STRONG CONSERVATIONAL RESTRICTIONS AMONG ICNAF PANEL 5. COUNTRIES, MIRCEA EMPHASIZED GOR POSITION THAT RIGID QUOTAS BASED ON STANDARD PERCENTAGE REDUCTION FOR ALL COUNTRIES WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOR NOR FAIR TO ITS INTERESTS. GOR POSITION, AS EXPLAINED BY MIRCEA, IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. IDENTICAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO ALL PANEL 5 COUNTRIES, AND THOSE WITH SMALLEST FLEETS (I.E. ROMANIA) SHOULD SUFFER SMALLER PERCENTAGE REDUCTION THAN THOSE WITH LARGE ONES. REASONING BEHIND THIS POSITION IS THAT LOSSES MORE KEENLY FELT WHEN SMALL AND BADLY NEEDED CATCHES INVOLVED.

B. ROMANIA HAS NO NATURAL MARITIME RESOURCES OF ITS OWN (THERE ARE NO FOOD FISH IN BLACK SEA AS RESULT SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL FACTORS), AND THUS ROMANIA FORCED TO FISH IN ICNAF AREA. THIS IS NOT TRUE OF ALL PANEL 5 COUNTRIES, AND ROMANIA SHOULD THUS RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT.

C. ALL OF ROMANIA'S CATCH USED FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION AS FOOD, AND NO INDUSTRIAL OR EXPORT FACTORS INVOLVED. REDUCTION IN QUOTA WILL THEREFORE HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON DIET OF ROMANIAN PEOPLE.

D. GOR WOULD OPPOSE ANY SOLUTION INVOLVING PLAN TO SHORTEN FISHING SEASON IN SA 5, AS IT'S FISHING VESSELS ARE SMALL AND RUDIMENTARY, WHEREAS LARGE MECHANIZED FLEETS WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN BRINGING IN SIZEABLE CATCH IN SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

E. ROMANIAN IS LATE ARRIVAL TO NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHING REGION, AND SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED TO SAME EXTENT AS THOSE WHOSE ACTIONS CAUSED CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION.

F. ROMANIAN FISHING FLEET IS RELATIVELY RECENT CREATION, AND REPRESENTS CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT FROM ROMANIAN VIEWPOINT. GOR WOULD NOT FAVOR SOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF CANCEL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LING OUT INVESTMENT.

4. WHILE LOGIC OF SOME OF ABOVE GOR ARGUMENTS APPEARS TO US TO BE OPEN TO QUESTION, WE HAVE INCLUDED GOR VIEWS IN FULL IN ORDER PROVIDE US OFFICIALS WITH COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF GOR OBJECTIONS TO CURRENT US PROPOSALS. MIRCEA INDICATED HE WOULD BRING UP US DEMARCHE AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS WITHIN MFA AND GOR, AND PROVIDE US WITH ADDITIONAL REACTIONS PRIOR TO OPENING

OF OTTAWA MEETING. IN INTERIM, EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT WITH
BOTH OCANOAIA AND POPESCU ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND WILL CONTINUE
TO PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE FOR US POSITION.
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